



Australian Bureau of Statistics

1376.0 - Local Government and ABS, March 2011

Previous ISSUE Released at 11:30 AM (CANBERRA TIME) 07/03/2011

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WELCOME FROM THE DIRECTOR

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND ABS

Welcome to the latest edition of the 'Local Government and ABS' newsletter.

What's in this issue?

This issue contains three feature articles, and two of these are case studies on Local Government Areas. The first article Wages and Salaries in Your Local Government Area looks at the characteristics of Wage and salary earners living in Broken Hill. The second article, Local Government Data Made Easy, uses the National Regional Profile to explore the Mornington Peninsula in Victoria. These case studies show readers how this data can be used to analyse their Local Government Area.

The third article in this issue provides information on the new Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) which is a newly released geographical classification. This also explains how Local Government Areas will be provided for following its implementation.

Other information in this issue includes an update on 'What's happening in Local Government Finance?', job opportunities for the 2011 Census of Population and Housing, as well as information about a number of relevant Recent and Future ABS releases. Look out for release of the latest population estimates in 'Regional Population Growth, Australia'.

We hope you find this newsletter interesting and informative, and we welcome your feedback and comments.

Lisa Conolly

Director

Rural and Regional Statistics National Centre

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WAGES AND SALARIES IN YOUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

The latest data on Wages and salaries earned by residents in your Local Government Area (LGA) was released in Wage and Salary Earner Statistics for Small Areas, Time Series, 2003-04 to 2007-08 (cat. no. 5673.0.55.00) in October 2010. Data in this release will help you answer questions about your Local Government Area such as:

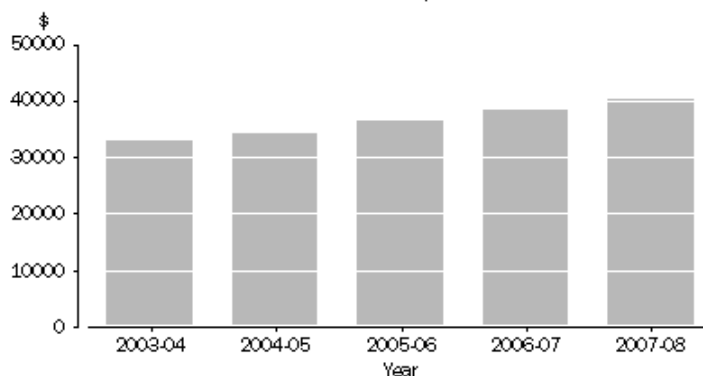
- How many Wage and salary earners are in my area?
- What is the Average wage and salary income in my area?
- How many people earn relatively high incomes?
- What are the ages of Wage and salary earners in my area?

This release contains a main features article which illustrates how the data can be used to explore the characteristics of regions. However, we will now use the Local Government Area of Broken Hill to illustrate how this data can answer the above questions, plus many more you may have about Wage and salary earners in your region.

BROKEN HILL LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

Broken Hill is a regional town in Western New South Wales near the South Australian border. It is surrounded by semi-desert and is 500km from Adelaide and over 1,100km from Sydney. From 2003-04 to 2007-08 the LGA of Broken Hill had one of the largest average annual growth rates in Wage and salary income in a non-metropolitan area (5.2%). In comparison the Wage and salary income in New South Wales grew by an average of 4.1% each year. During that period the average Wage and salary income for Broken Hill, increased from \$33,070 in 2003-04 to \$40,429 in 2007-08.

GRAPH 1. AVERAGE WAGE AND SALARY INCOME, BROKEN HILL LGA



How many Wage and salary earners are in Broken Hill?

The number of people earning income from a Wage and salary in Broken Hill increased from 6,870 persons in 2003-04 to 7,780 persons in 2007-08, an increase of 13.2%. During that time, the estimated resident population decreased by 1.2%, from 20,332 to 20,089 (Regional Population Growth, Australia, cat. no.

How many people receive high Wage and salary income in Broken Hill?

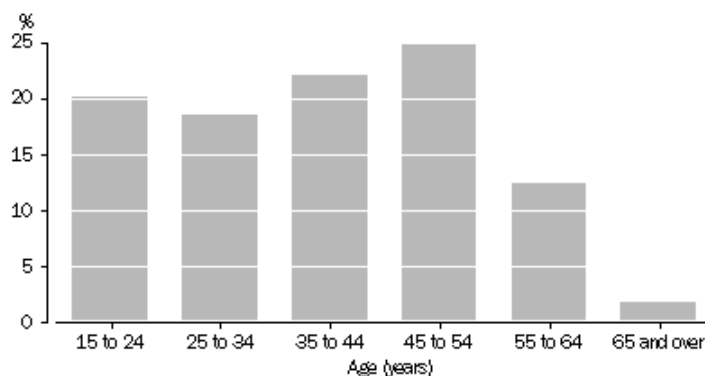
During the same period Broken Hill had large increases in people earning relatively high incomes from Wages and salaries. From 2003-04 to 2007-08 the number of Wage and salary earners earning \$67,600 to \$83,000 increased by 103.8%, while those in the higher income brackets of \$83,200 to \$104,000 and over \$104,000 rose by 238% and 156% respectively. While there were increases in people earning high Wages and salaries, there were decreases in Wage and salaries earners in the lowest income brackets, with those people earning \$0 to \$13,000 falling by 7.8%, and Wage and salary earners in the \$20,800 to \$31,200 bracket down by 11.9%. This shows that more people in Broken Hill were earning relatively high incomes.

The Wage and salary data also shows that over time there has been a shift in occupations of Wage and salary earners in the region. Between 2003-04 and 2007-08 the number of Wage and salary earners employed as Intermediate Transport and Production Workers showed the largest increase, by growing 42.8%. There were also large increases in the number of Wage and salary earners working as Tradespersons and Related Workers (up by 28.0%). However, Professionals still remain the most common occupation in the area.

What are the ages of Wage and salary earners in Broken Hill?

From 2003-04 to 2007-08 there was a large increase in two particular age groups of Wage and salary earners. There was a 31.4% increase in people aged 15 to 24 years earning a Wage and salary income and a 33.8% increase in the 55 to 64 year age group. The number of Wage and salary earners in the 35 to 44 year age group declined by 3.8%. These figures show that Broken Hill's growth in Wage and salary earners was mostly in the young and older age groups. However, even with the increases in these age groups, the middle age range still remains the largest group of Wage and salary earners in Broken Hill as shown in Graph 2.

GRAPH 2. WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS, BROKEN HILL LGA, 2007-08



FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more Wage and salary information on the Broken Hill LGA and all other regions, see Wage and Salary Earner Statistics for Small Areas, Time Series, 2003-04 to 2007-08 (cat. no.5673.0.55.003). This publication contains detailed data released by the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) relating to Wage and salary earners on a range of geographic levels for the years 2003-04 to 2007-08. This includes Wage and salary data by age, sex, occupation and income for Statistical Divisions, Statistical Subdivisions, Statistical Local Areas and Local Government Areas.

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT DATA MADE EASY

Did you know that the ABS has statistical profiles for Local Government Areas in the National Regional Profile? This is a great place to start if you are looking for data about the economy and people in your Local Government Area (LGA), plus much more.

Your LGA is easy to find using a map, list or search bar. The profiles contain a range of data from the ABS and other sources in a five year time series up to 2009. You can also find profiles for your state or territory and Australia.

WHAT CAN FIND OUT ABOUT YOUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA?

Some examples include: How many people live in your Local Government Area? What is the birth rate? What is the average taxable income? How many registered motor vehicles are there?

In this article the Mornington Peninsula Local Government Area in Victoria, is used as an example of how you can use data in the profiles to explore a Local Government Area.

MORNINGTON PENINSULA

At 30 June 2009 the Local Government Area of Mornington Peninsula was the eleventh most populous LGA in Victoria. As can be seen from the image below, the region is bordered mostly by coastline with Western Port on the east, Port Phillip Bay on the west and Bass Strait to the south. This region is located to the south-east of Melbourne.

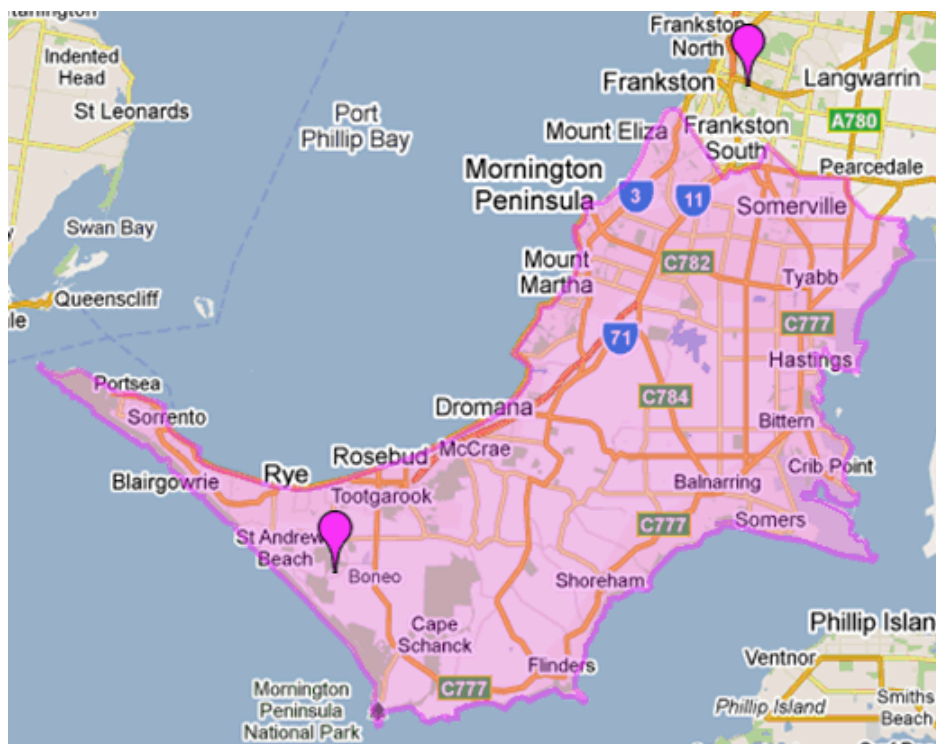


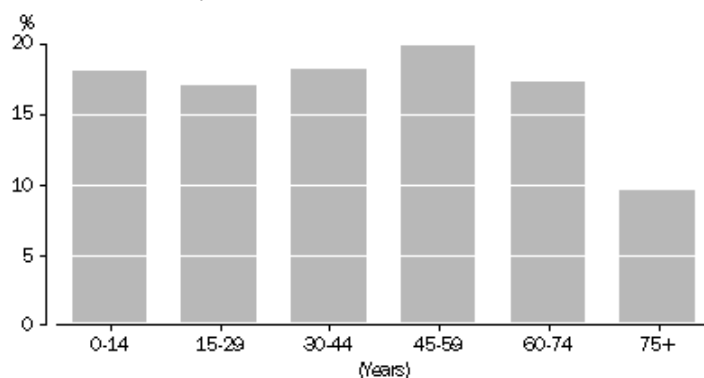
Image taken from the National Regional Profile

Population

As at 30 June 2009 the LGA of Mornington Peninsula had an estimated resident population of 148,394, comprising 75,273 females and 73,121 males. From 30 June 2005 to 30 June 2009 the population grew by 6.7%, compared with growth of 7.8% for Victoria over the same period.

As shown in Graph 1. the largest age range in Mornington Peninsula in 2009 was the 45 to 59 age group, representing 19.8% of the region's population. At the time of the 2006 Census 18.6% of Mornington Peninsula's usual residents were born overseas, compared with the state average of 25.4%. In 2008 Mornington Peninsula had a higher fertility rate than Victoria (2.1 compared with 1.8).

GRAPH 1. AGE GROUP, MORNINGTON PENINSULA LGA - 30 JUNE 2009



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Economy

For the June quarter 2009, Mornington Peninsula had an estimated Unemployment rate of 3.6%, well below the Australian and Victorian unemployment rates, which were 5.0% and 5.1% respectively for the same period.

The region's average Wage and salary income in 2007-08 was \$39,656, lower than the Victorian average (\$42,782). At this time Mornington Peninsula's most common occupation was Intermediate Clerical, Sales and Service Workers representing 17.5% of Wage and salary earners. Professionals were the second most common occupation representing 17.3% of Wage and salary earners.

As at 30 June 2009, 20,285 people in the Mornington Peninsula received an Age Pension from Centrelink, and 82 received an Age Pension from DVA. In Mornington Peninsula, the estimated resident population aged 65 and over was 20.0% of the total population, compared with 13.6% for Victoria.

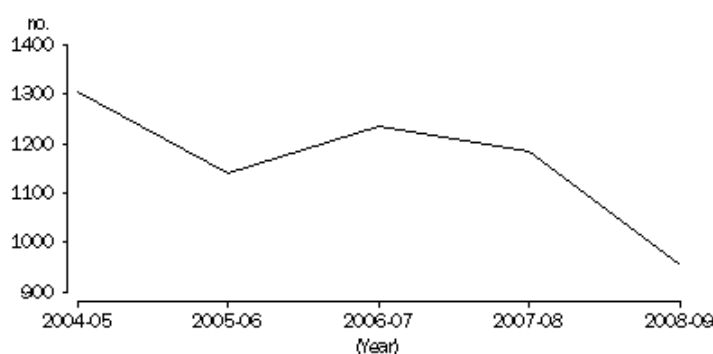
Industry

Being close to Melbourne, the region may be a popular destination for a 'weekend away' or a longer stay. In 2008-09 Mornington Peninsula had 35 Hotel/Motels/Serviced Apartments with 5 or more rooms. It also had 32 Caravan Parks which was approximately 8% of Victoria's total.

The largest use of agricultural land in 2005-06 was for growing Vegetables for human consumption, with 1,961 hectares. All fruit (excluding grapes) was the next highest use covering 445 hectares, followed closely by Orchard trees (including nuts) with 440 hectares. Meat cattle was the most prevalent livestock with 16,474 head followed by Sheep and lamb (4,409 head). Mornington Peninsula had a small number of Milk cattle (excluding house cows) and Pigs, with 36 and 16 respectively. The Gross value of livestock slaughtering was \$85.3 million, with the Gross value of crops at \$80.6 million.

In 2008-09 the Average value of private sector house approvals was \$320,500, a 31.3% increase from 2004-05. In 2008-09, 955 Private sector houses were approved, a decrease from 1,305 in 2004-05.

GRAPH 2. BUILDING APPROVALS PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSES, MORNINGTON PENINSULA LGA



As at 31 March 2009 Mornington Peninsula had a high number of Total registered motor vehicles with 778 per thousand population, compared with Victoria (739) and Australia (714). This was an increase from 757 per thousand population in 2005. Mornington Peninsula also had a high number of Registered passenger vehicles per thousand population (620) in 2009, compared with Victoria (586) and Australia (548).

In Mornington Peninsula 46.5% of Total registered motor vehicles were aged 10 years or over, which was similar to the proportion of older vehicles in Victoria and Australia, with 46.3% and 45.0% respectively.

Environment

In 2005-06 approximately 2,000 hectares of land in this region were irrigated, which was 7.1% of all agricultural land in the Mornington Peninsula. This was larger than the percentage for Victoria (5.3%). The total water use on farms in Mornington Peninsula was 8,985 ML, which was 0.3% of all water used on Victorian farms.

For more information on the Mornington Peninsula LGA or any other of the 2,000 regional profiles, see the National Regional Profile. You can view or download data for than one region at a time, or download data for all regions. Go to 'How to Find a Region' and 'Compare Regions' for help in finding your region of interest.

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AUSTRALIAN STATISTICAL GEOGRAPHY STANDARD

From July 2011 the ABS will progressively replace the current Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) with the new Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS).

The ABS has published the ASGS manual with the boundaries, labels and codes for the SAs 1-4 and Greater Capital City Statistical Areas, see Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS): Volume 1 - Main Structure and Greater Capital City Statistical Areas, July 2011 (cat. no. 1270.0.55.001).

The ABS will continue to support Local Government Area boundaries with the data it currently provides.

The ASGS will be used for the 2011 Census of Population and Housing. The ABS anticipates that all its spatial data will be based on the ASGS by 2014. Census data for the Statistical Local Areas will also be available from the 2011 Population Census to provide a bridge between the ASGC and the ASGS.

REGIONS OF THE ASGS

The ASGS brings all the regions used by the ABS to output data under the one umbrella. They are divided into two broad categories:

1. ABS structures, those regions which are defined and maintained by the ABS.
2. Non-ABS structures, those regions defined and maintained by other organisations, but for which the ABS releases data.

The ABS structures are a hierarchy of regions specifically developed for the release of particular ABS statistics described below.

ABS Regions

Mesh Blocks are the smallest area geographical region. There are approximately 348,000 covering the whole of Australia. They broadly identify land use such as: residential, commercial, agriculture and parks etc. Residential and agricultural Mesh Blocks usually contain 30 to 60 households. Mesh Blocks are the building block for all the larger regions of the ASGS. Only limited Census data, total population and dwelling counts will be released at the mesh block level.

Statistical Areas Level 1 (SA1s) will be the smallest region for which a wide range of Census data will be released. They will have an average population of about 400. They will be built from whole Mesh Blocks and there will be approximately 55,000 covering the whole of Australia.

Statistical Areas Level 2 (SA2s) will have an average population of about 10,000, with a minimum population of 3,000 and a maximum of 25,000. The SA2s are the regions for which the majority of ABS sub-state non-census data, for example Estimated Resident Population and Health and Vital Statistics, will be released. There will be about 2,200 SA2s, built from whole SA1s.

Statistical Areas Level 3 (SA3s) are a medium sized region with a population of 30,000 to 130,000. They represent the functional areas of regional cities and large urban transport and service hubs. They will be built from whole SA2s.

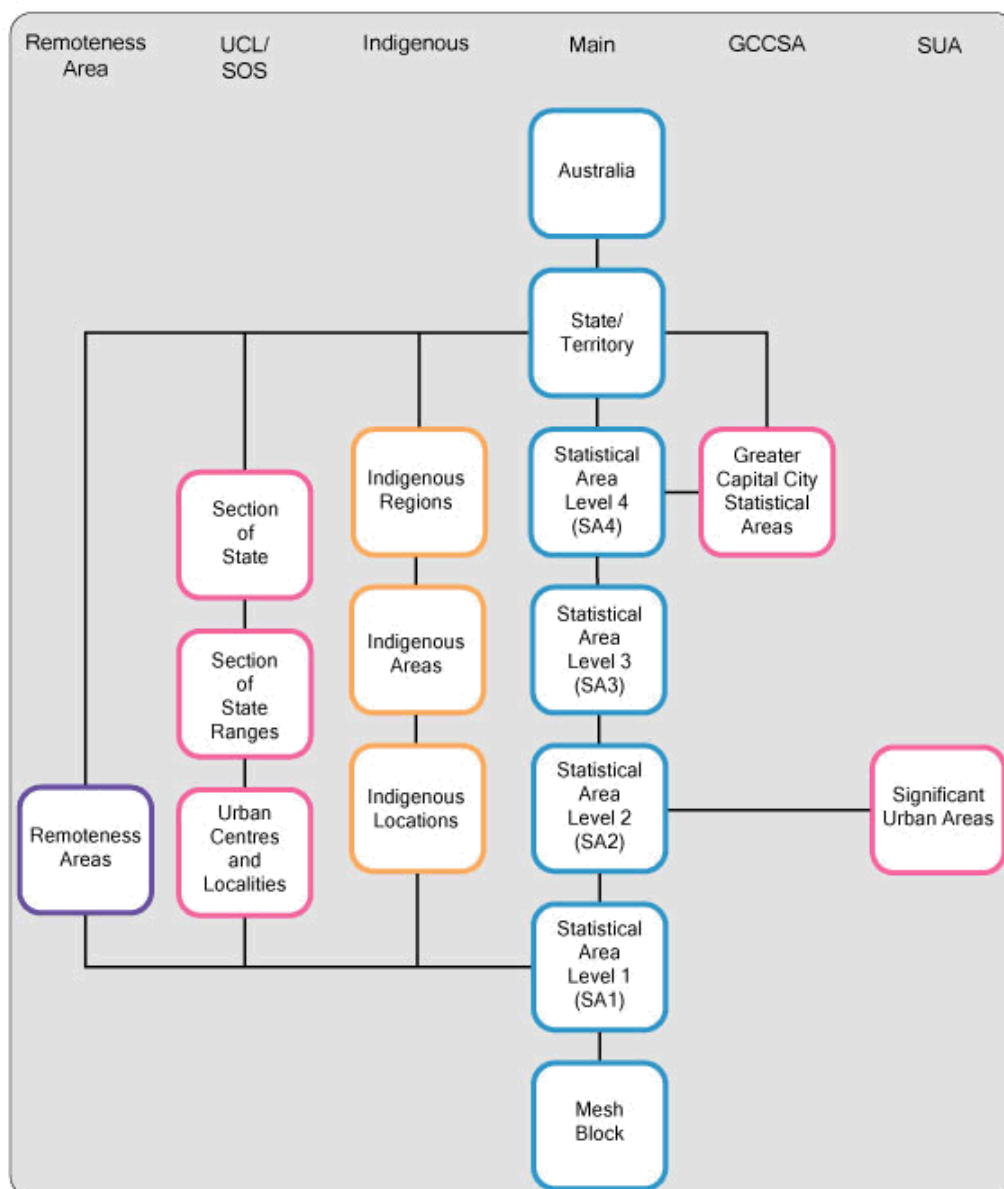
Statistical Areas Level 4 (SA4s) will be used for the release of Labour Force Statistics.

Urban Centres/Localities, Section of State and Remoteness Areas will define the built up area of Australia's towns and cities and will be broadly comparable to previous Censuses.

Greater Capital City Statistical Areas and Significant Urban Areas define the Capital Cities, major regional cities and towns of Australia with a population over 10,000. This includes both the built up area, any likely medium term expansion and their area of immediate economic influence.

Indigenous Regions, Areas and Localities are designed for the presentation of Indigenous data. At the Indigenous Locality level it is possible to identify data on particular Indigenous Communities.

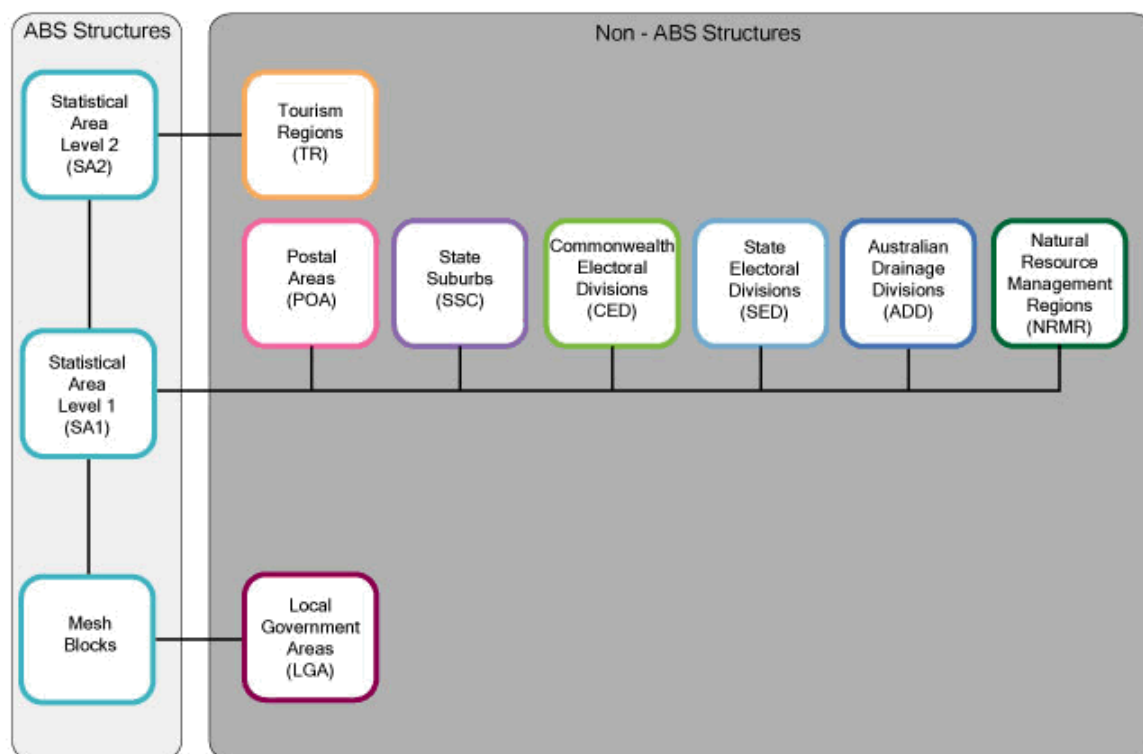
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Non-ABS Regions

Non-ABS structures will be approximated or built directly from Mesh Blocks or SA1s. The Non-ABS structures include such important regions as: Local Government Areas (LGAs), postal areas, state gazetted suburbs and electoral divisions. LGAs remain part of the ASGS and the ABS will continue to support LGAs with the data it currently provides.

The diagrams below summarises the overall structure of the ASGS.



RELEASE OF THE ASGS

The Non-ABS structures will be released in mid 2011; this is to ensure that the Census is released on the most up to date boundaries available. Urban Centres and Localities, Section of State, Remoteness and Significant Urban Areas will be released in 2012 as they require an analysis of Census data to be developed.

The regions defined in the ABS structures will not change until the next Census in 2016, although the Non-ABS structures will be updated annually.

The ASGS will come into effect on the 1 July 2011.

Further Information

For more information please follow the link to the ABS Geography Portal. If you have any questions regarding the ASGS please email geography@abs.gov.au.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE?

Collections

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) collects and publishes annual Local Government Finance data, including the amount and purpose of local government expenditure. These annual financial data are collected from the Department of Local Government or Grants Commission in each state or territory. The ABS also undertakes a quarterly sample survey of councils.

Annual

The Local Government Statistical Unit (LGSU) of the ABS is currently processing the Annual Data returns supplied by the Department of Local Government/Grants Commission of each state or territory. The financial and function data on these forms are edited and the output used by the ABS to compile Government Finance Statistics (GFS).

Total General Government expenses for the local government sector in Australia were \$26.2 billion in 2008-09. The major contributors were expenditure on Housing and community amenities (24.2%), Transport and communications (22.2%), General public services (19%) and Recreation and culture (14.7%).

GENERAL GOVERNMENT EXPENSES BY PURPOSE, Local 2008-09

	\$m
General public services	4 963
Public order and safety	575
Education	120
Health	307
Social security and welfare	1 500
Housing and community amenities	6 319
Recreation and culture	3 846
Fuel and energy	15
Agriculture, forestry and construction	48
Mining, manufacturing and construction	306
Transport and communications	5 811
Other economic affairs	967
Public debt transactions	376
Other	999
Total	26 153

The table above can be found on the General Government expenses by purpose page in the current Summary of Government Finance Statistics, Australia (cat. no. 5512.0). This publication contains more financial and function data and 2009-10 data are due for release on 12 April 2011.

Quarterly

The ABS conducts a quarterly survey of financial information, from a selected sample of councils each quarter. Reminders for the next round of quarterly survey data will be despatched in the third week of March. Responses are required by **8 April 2011**. Early attention to the survey forms enabling a timely return to the ABS will ensure that the financial activity of local government is accurately represented in Australia's National Accounts.

The ABS thanks councils for their cooperation in providing timely and high quality data for these collections. The information provided is used in making important policy decisions concerning the sector and it is important that accurate and timely information is returned by councils to build this data set.

Visits to Departments of Local Government and Grants Commissions

Each year, the LGSU endeavours to meet with state/territory Grants Commissions or Departments of Local Government to review the recently completed annual collection and to commence preparations for the next cycle. These meetings are to be scheduled in accordance with the forward work program of LGSU and are in the process of being finalised.

Contact

For further information or inquiries about Local Government Statistics, contact the Local Government Statistical Unit on (07) 3222 6404.

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RECENT AND FUTURE ABS RELEASES

RECENT RELEASES

WAGE AND SALARY EARNER STATISTICS FOR SMALL AREAS

Wage and Salary Earner Statistics for Small Areas, Time Series, 2003-04 to 2007-08 (cat. no. 5673.0.55.00) contains data on selected characteristics of Wage and salary earners such as age, sex, occupation and Wage and salary income for the years 2003-04 to 2007-08. Data is available at a range of geographies, including Local Government Areas (LGAs) and Statistical Local Areas (SLAs).

TOURIST ACCOMMODATION, SMALL AREA DATA, AUSTRALIA, SEPT 2010

Released on the 13 January 2011, Tourist Accommodation, Small Area Data, Australia, Sept 2010 (cat. no. 8635.0.55.002) contains the results from the on-going quarterly Survey of Tourist Accommodation. This release provides information on the supply of, and demand for, tourist accommodation facilities. Data include number of establishments, capacity and employment for the quarter and occupancy and takings from accommodation for each month; by type of establishment and by star grading. Information is presented for each state/territory and Australia and by Tourism Regions as defined by the respective state/territory tourism commissions. Small area data are available for states and territories in catalogue numbers 8635.1.55.001 through to 8635.8.55.007. Data are available for Statistical Local Areas (SLAs), Local Government Areas (LGAs) and Tourism Regions (TRs). The publication 9503.0.55.001 contains maps defining the Tourism Regions.

BUILDING APPROVALS

Building Approvals, January 2011 (cat. no. 8731.0) was released on 3 March 2011. Released on a monthly basis, this publication provides data by Statistical Local Area. Local Government Area data is available on request. The data includes:

- the number and value of dwelling units approved by sector (public/private);
- the number and value of new other residential dwelling units approved by type of building; and
- the number and value of non-residential building jobs approved by type of building.

FUTURE RELEASES

REGIONAL POPULATION GROWTH, AUSTRALIA 2009-10

To be released on 31 March 2010, Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2009-10 (cat. no. 3218.0) will contain estimates of the resident populations of areas of Australia as at 30 June in each year from 2001 to 2010. The areas for which estimates will be provided are Local Government Areas (LGAs), Statistical Local Areas (SLAs), Statistical Divisions (SDs), Statistical Subdivisions (SSDs), Statistical Districts and states and territories of Australia, according to the 2010 edition of the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC).

NATIONAL REGIONAL PROFILE

Scheduled for release in April 2011, the latest update of the National Regional Profile (NRP) will release further data for the years 2005 to 2009 that was not available at the time of the November 2010 release. The National Regional Profile presents a range of data for various types of small regions including Local Government Areas, and Statistical Local Areas as well as other larger geographies. The NRP has the option of using a Google map to locate areas of interest.

The NRP is intended for users interested in the characteristics of regions and in comparing regions across Australia. Data is presented as a five year time series, where available.

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OTHER NEWS AND CONTACTS

HELP THE AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS SHED SOME LIGHT ON CENSUS NIGHT

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) needs the help of local governments to conduct the largest peace time operation in Australia, the Census of Population and Housing on 9 August 2011.

From April, 29,000 Census Collector job opportunities will be available throughout Australia.

Census workers are vital to the success of the Census, and to their communities, helping to ensure planning for future resources, infrastructure and other community needs.

Working on the Census is a great community-based activity and makes a real difference to the nation, states and local communities.

In the past Census Collectors have included retired managers, former and serving school teachers, community workers, people working part-time and parents at home with children.

Census Collector jobs will be advertised in newspapers and online from early April 2011.

Until then, the public can register their interest in a Census Collector job through the ABS website www.abs.gov.au/census

Census Collectors are needed to help deliver and collect approximately 14.2 million Census forms to Australia's 9.8 million households.

Across Australia, Collectors will be responsible for about 500 households in cities or about 200 households in Australia's regional areas.

Census Collectors will receive between \$1,100 and \$2,300 for the part-time position and will be employed from 1 July until 8 September.

The ABS provides all training for Collectors.

If your Local Government wants to be involved in the 2011 Census, simply contact the Public Relations Manager in your state or territory.

Queensland – Marsali MacKinnon (07) 3222 6180

New South Wales & ACT – Erin Dale (02) 9268 4386

Northern Territory – Jason McIntosh (02) 8943 2157

South Australia – Anna Jackson (08) 8237 7638

Tasmania – Donna Sookee (03) 6222 5947

Victoria – Clare Lapworth (03) 9982 6205

Western Australia – Marie-Louise Hunt (08) 9360 5109

REGIONAL @ A GLANCE PAGE

The Regional @ a Glance page is a great place to start if you are looking for data or information about regional statistics.

HELP FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ON THE ABS WEBSITE

'Services to Local Government' is a series of information pages designed to help you find data for your Local Government Area and inform you how to keep up to date with the latest ABS releases and available training. It also provides information about how ABS uses local government data. You can find the 'Services to Local Government' pages by heading to the ABS Home Page, clicking on 'Services' along the top navigation bar and following the link to 'Local Government'.

UNDERSTANDING STATISTICS

'Understanding Statistics' is a series of help pages available from the ABS website. These pages provide an overview of statistical terms and methods used by the ABS and other statistical agencies as well as information on ABS training courses, online tutorials, presentations and resources. You can find the 'Understanding Statistics' link under the 'All Statistics' section at the top of the left navigation bar on the ABS Home page.

Recently added to the 'Understanding Statistics' portal is 'A Guide for Using Statistics for Evidence Based Policy'. The article discusses what evidence-based decision making means and how statistics can enhance the decision-making process.


NEWSLETTER AND ABS CONTACT DETAILS

This newsletter is designed to improve communication between the ABS and the Local Government Sector. New ABS initiatives to assist local government organisations will be announced in this newsletter as they evolve.

We appreciate receiving your views and suggestions about this newsletter so that it remains useful and assists you to understand and use ABS statistics. We also welcome suggestions for articles that you feel should be included. Please email your comments and suggestions to: regional.statistics@abs.gov.au

For other enquiries contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070 or e-mail: client.services@abs.gov.au

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Contains a range of information on ABS developments in rural and regional statistics, and information about recent releases at Local Government level or other regional levels.

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